



## Chargé d'Affaires David Keegan departs New Zealand



On Friday, August 21st, Chargé d'Affaires David Keegan spent his last day at the embassy before departing New Zealand to take up his new position in Washington. He left a brief message of farewell to all New Zealanders:

*As I depart New Zealand for my new assignment in Washington, I look back on my three years in New Zealand, and especially the last nine months as "chargé d'affaires" or "acting ambassador," with a sense that this has been a very special time.*

*Our two countries have found our ways to a clearer perception of all that we share in common – in strategic orientation, in commitment to open economies and free fair trade, in culture and the arts, but most of all in shared values. That perception has enabled us to cooperate in many ways, and I am confident that we will find many more ways to cooperate over the coming years. We truly are, as Secretary Rice said when she visited New Zealand in 2008, friends, partners, and allies.*

*Thank you to all of you who have made that a reality.*

## U.S. Embassy hosts Climate Change Policy Expert

U.S. Mission New Zealand hosted Morey Wolfson, climate change and energy expert with the office of Colorado Governor Bill Ritter. Mr. Wolfson explained how energy choices underpin all human activities, ranging from economics to national security. Mr. Wolfson met and shared his expertise with officials, organizations, and individuals concerned with energy, economics, and climate change. He explained the current state of climate change policy at the U.S. federal and state levels; particularly the energy provisions in the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) and the [American Clean Energy and Security Act](#) which proposes a 'can and trade' system for green house gas emissions.



*Mr. Wolfson has made available the [slides which accompanied his public presentation](#) in Wellington.*

It offers abstracts of current articles from U.S. publications and by U.S. authors, highlighting significant issues in international or U.S. domestic affairs. **Views expressed in the articles cited are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government policies.**

**\*\* You can either read the whole document or skip to subject using table of contents\*\***

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## Contents

Economy, Business & Trade .....	2
Middle East .....	3
Health & Health Care Reform .....	4
Media & Communications .....	5
Energy .....	6
Social Issues .....	7
Security & Defense.....	8
Environment & Climate Change.....	9
Asia/Pacific Region.....	10
U.S. Government & International Relations .....	11
Research, Science & Technology .....	12
Arts & Culture .....	13

## Economy, Business & Trade

**The Most Misunderstood Man in America** by Michael Hirsh. Newsweek. July 27, 2009.

Joseph Stiglitz predicted the global financial meltdown. So why can't he get any respect here at home?

**World Investment Prospects Survey 2009-2010.** *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.* July 22, 2009.

The focus of this year's World Investment Prospects Survey is the global economic and financial crisis and its impact on the FDI plans of TNCs. UNCTAD surveyed 240 company executives about the effect of the crisis on their International investment strategies during the next three years.

**ARTICLE 702**

**Why Prices Rise Faster Than They Fall** by Sheldon Kimmel. *Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice.* July 2009.

For decades the fact that input price hikes are passed on faster than input price cuts was thought to be well explained by the assumption that competitive firms fully pass on all input price changes, so they can't price asymmetrically, so asymmetric pricing behavior is limited to oligopolies, firms that do all sorts of bizarre things, says the report. The report strives to solve the issue.

**ARTICLE 703**

**An International Comparison of Small Business Employment** by John Schmitt and Nathan Lane. *Center for Economic and Policy Research.* August 2009.

Contrary to popular perceptions, the U.S. has a much smaller small-business sector, as a share of total employment, than other countries at a comparable level of economic development, according to the report. The authors observe that the undersized U.S. small business sector is consistent with the view that high health care costs discourage small business formation,

**ARTICLE 704**

**CBO's Economic Forecasting Record: 2009 Update.** *Congressional Budget Office.* July 30, 2009.

The report is an evaluation of the accuracy of its economic forecasts by comparing those forecasts with the economy's actual performance and with the projections of other forecasters. The study examines the two-year ahead forecast accuracy and the five-year ahead forecast accuracy for a variety of macroeconomic variables, such as real GDP, inflation, and interest rates.

**ARTICLE 705**

**2009 Capital Spending Report: U.S. Capital Spending Patterns.** *U.S. Census Bureau.* Aug. 2009.

Spending by all U.S. nonfarm businesses on new and used structures and equipment increased 17%, or nearly \$201 billion, to a total of \$1.362 trillion in 2007. This compares with an earlier cyclical peak of \$1.161 trillion in 2000, according to the report from the U.S. Census Bureau. [ARTICLE 706](#)

**The U.S. Food Import Patterns, 1998-2007** by Nora Brooks et al. *U.S. Department of Agriculture.* August 6, 2009.

Using import data from the U.S. Census Bureau, this study examines patterns of food imports for fiscal years 1998-2007. Results indicate faster import growth trends for consumer-ready foods, such as fruit, vegetables, meats, seafood, and processed food products. Although the U.S. imported most bulk food commodities and perishable consumer-ready products, such as fruit and vegetables, from neighboring countries, it imported processed foods, spices, and other tropical products from more global sources, with rising import shares for many countries in Asia. [ARTICLE 707](#)

**Reflections on a Year of Crisis** by Chairman Ben S. Bernanke. *U.S. Federal Reserve Bank System.* August 21, 2009.

By the standards of recent decades, the economic environment at the time of this symposium one year ago was quite challenging. A year after the onset of the current crisis in August 2007, financial markets remained stressed, the economy was slowing, and inflation had risen significantly. [ARTICLE 708](#)

## Middle East

**The Mujahedin-E Khalq in Iraq: a Policy Conundrum** by Jeremiah Goulka et al. *RAND Corporation.* July 30, 2009.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, coalition forces classified the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MeK), an Iranian dissident group dedicated to the violent overthrow of the Iranian government, as an enemy force. The MeK provided security services to Saddam Hussein and had been listed as a foreign terrorist organization by the Secretary of State. After a cease-fire was signed, the U.S. Secretary of Defense designated this group's members as civilian "protected persons" rather than combatant prisoners of war under the Geneva Conventions. [ARTICLE 709](#)

**How Opium Profits the Taliban** by Gretchen Peters. *U.S. Institute of Peace.* August 6, 2009.

In Afghanistan's poppy-rich south and southwest, a raging insurgency intersects a thriving opium trade. The report examines who are the main beneficiaries of the opium trade, how traffickers influence the Taliban insurgency as well as the politics of the region, and considers the extent to which narcotics are changing the nature of the insurgency itself. [ARTICLE 710](#)

**Iraq's Interior Ministry: The Key to Police Reform** by Robert Perito and Madeline Krstoff. *U.S. Institute of Peace.* August 2009.

As part of a push to bolster security in Iraq, the U.S. government focused on building the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Interior. However, even by 2007, numerous reports described Iraq's Ministry of Interior as crippled by corruption and sectarianism. To address this critical problem, a team of U.S. and British advisers were tasked with reforming the Ministry. [ARTICLE 711](#)

[\*\*Afghanistan: Post-Taliban Governance, Security, and U.S. Policy.\*\*](#) *Congressional Research Service.* Updated August 14, 2009.

**Rockets from Gaza: Harm to Civilians from Palestinians Armed Groups' Rocket Attacks.** *Human Rights Watch.* August 6, 2009.

Since 2001, Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups in Gaza have fired thousands of rockets deliberately or indiscriminately at civilian areas in Israel. Such attacks virtually stopped during a ceasefire that began in June 2008 but escalated in November 2008 after an Israeli military incursion into Gaza. The attacks continued during and since Israel's three-week-long military offensive in Gaza that began on December 27. [ARTICLE 712](#)

**Afghanistan's Police** by Robert M. Perito. *U.S. Institute of Peace*. August 12, 2009.

In seven years, the Afghan National Police (ANP) forces have grown to 68,000 personnel, with a target end strength of 86,000. The ANP includes the uniformed police force, which is responsible for general police duties, and specialized police forces, which deal with public order, counternarcotics, terrorism, and border control.

**White Flag Deaths: Killings of Palestinian Civilians During Operation Cast Lead.** *Human Rights Watch*. August 13, 2009.

During Israel's recent Gaza offensive, Israeli soldiers unlawfully shot and killed 11 Palestinian civilians, including five women and four children, who were in groups waving white flags to convey their civilian status, according to the report. The Israeli military should conduct thorough, credible investigations into these deaths to tackle the prevailing culture of impunity, Human Rights Watch said. **ARTICLE 713**

**"They Want Us Exterminated": Murder, Torture, Sexual Orientation and Gender in Iraq.** *Human Rights Watch*. August 17, 2009.

This report documents a wide-reaching campaign of extrajudicial executions, kidnappings, and torture of gay men that began in 2009. **ARTICLE 714**

**Pakistan's Stake in the Afghan Election.** Interview with Daniel Markey. *Council on Foreign Relations*. August 20, 2009.

The August 20 presidential elections in Afghanistan are seen as a crucial step forward in what U.S. President Barack Obama has dubbed a "war of necessity." **ARTICLE 715**

## Health & Health Care Reform

**The Cause of my Life** by Edward Kennedy. *Newsweek*. July 27, 2009.

Senator Edward Kennedy writes about his history of fighting for health care reform.

**10 Steps to Free Our Health Care System** by John C. Goodman. *National Center for Policy Analysis*. July 30, 2009.

To confront the health care crisis, America does not need more spending, more regulations or more bureaucracy, according to the report. America needs to liberate every American to use their intelligence, creativity and abilities to make the changes needed to create access to low-cost, high-quality health care. **ARTICLE 716**

**Capital Malpractice: How a Washington Takeover of Health Care Will Hurt States.** Rep. John Boehner (R-OH) and Governor Tim Pawlenty (R-MN). *GOP State Solutions Report*. July 27, 2009.

The health care legislation being rushed through the Democratic-controlled Congress will increase health costs, destroy jobs and crush state budgets across the nation, according to the report released jointly by Congressman John Boehner (R-West Chester) and Gov. Tim Pawlenty (R-MN). **ARTICLE 717**

**How we can Pay for Health Reform** by Robert A. Berenson et al. *Urban Institute*. July 29, 2009.

The authors discuss alternative ways that health reform could be financed. The key message of the paper is that health reform can be paid for, but it is best to obtain funds from a large number of measures to spread the burden broadly. **ARTICLE 718**

**Groundhog Day** by Trudy Lieberman. *Columbia Journalism Review*. July/August 2009.

Why this year's health-care debate sounds like the one in 1993.

**Why the Blue Dogs Are Slowing Health-Care Reform** by David Von Drehle. *Time Magazine*. August 03, 2009.

**Influenza A (H1N1) and Pandemic Preparedness Under the Rule of International Law** by Lawrence O. Gostin. *O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law Scholarship*. August 2009.

The paper analyzes World Health Organization (WHO) powers and resources, as well as the powers and resources of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He finds that although the response to H1N1 has been strong, the WHO and CDC need more authority and resources to deal with pandemic threats under the rule of international law.

[\*\*ARTICLE 719\*\*](#)

**Local Wellness Policies: Assessing School District Strategies for Improving Children's Health** by Jamie Chiqui et al. *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*. July 28, 2009.

While most students nationwide are enrolled in a school district with a wellness policy on the books, these policies are weak, failing to provide our children with the healthy foods and physical activity they need to learn and grow, according to the report.

[\*\*ARTICLE 720\*\*](#)

**The Use of Complementary and Alternative Medicine in the U.S.: Cost Data.** *National Institute of Health and National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine*. July 2009.

Americans spent \$33.9 billion out-of-pocket on complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) over the previous 12 months, according to a 2007 government survey. Approximately 38 percent of adults use some form of CAM for health and wellness or to treat a variety of diseases and conditions, according to data from the 2007 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).

[\*\*ARTICLE 721\*\*](#)

**Private Health Insurance Provisions of H.R. 3200.** *Congressional Research Service*. July 2009.

This report summarizes the key provisions affecting private health insurance in America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009.

[\*\*ARTICLE 722\*\*](#)

**Back to Basics: 10 Steps to Save 85,000 Lives and \$35 Billion a Year in Health Care Delivery.** *Public Citizen*. August 6, 2009.

The report proposes 10 cost-cutting, patient safety measures that would save an estimated 85,000 lives and \$35 billion a year. It analyzes the results of scientific studies of treatment protocols for chronically recurring, avoidable medical errors.

[\*\*ARTICLE 723\*\*](#)

**The Health Care Status Quo: Health Insurance Reform Will Benefit All Americans.** *HealthReform.gov*. August 7, 2009.

The reports outline how health insurance reform will improve health care for all Americans. "These reports show how health insurance reform will help Americans save money, get better care, strengthen their insurance if they already have it, and afford insurance if they don't," said Sebelius, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary. "Every American will benefit when we pass health insurance reform."

[\*\*ARTICLE 724\*\*](#)

**Life Expectancy at All Time High; Death Rates Reach New Low, New Report Shows.** *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*.

U.S. life expectancy reached nearly 78 years (77.9), and the age-adjusted death rate dropped to 760.3 deaths per 100,000 population, both records, according to the latest mortality statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

[\*\*ARTICLE 725\*\*](#)

## **Media & Communications**

**The Audience for Online Video-Sharing Sites Shoots Up** by Mary Madden. *Pew Internet & American Life Project*. July 29, 2009.

As the audience for online video continues to grow, a leading edge of internet users are migrating their viewing from their computer screens to their TV screens, according to the study.

[\*\*ARTICLE 726\*\*](#)

**Accelerating the Adoption of Electronic Prescribing** by Cara Campbell. *National Governors Association*. July 27, 2009.

States are using innovative strategies to address the issue of integrated electronic health records and the electronic exchange of health information, according to the report. [ARTICLE 727](#)

[Twitter Study: August 2009](#). Pear Analytics, August 2009.

**Teens and Mobile Phones over the Past Five Years: Pew Internet Looks Back** by Amanda Lenhart. *Pew Internet & American Life Project*. August 2009.

The Project first surveyed teenagers about their mobile phones in 2004 when a survey showed that 45% of teens had a cell phone. Since then mobile phone use has climbed steadily among teens to 63% in 2006 and 71% in 2008. [Overview](#) [ARTICLE 728](#)

**Spectrum Policy in the Age of Broadband: Issues for Congress** by Linda K. Moore. *Congressional Research Service*. July 13, 2009.

This report considers the possibility of modifying spectrum policy to support goals for broadband deployment by placing emphasis on attracting new providers of wireless broadband services; and to accommodate the wireless broadband needs of industries that are considered to be the economic drivers of the future. [ARTICLE 729](#)

**Farewell to E-Mail** by John Moore. *Federal Computer Week*, July 31, 2009.

Is e-mail going the way of snail mail? Is your inbox maxed out? The answers to those questions might depend on how old you are and how many people share information with you in the course of a day. [ARTICLE 730](#)

[Expensive Gifts: What does free culture cost?](#) By Alissa Quart. *Columbia Journalism Review*. July/August 2009.

**Plotting the Future** by Lindsay Gsell. *American Journalism Review*. June/July 2009.

Former Washington Post editor Larry Roberts will explore how best to showcase investigative projects online in his new role as executive editor of The Huffington Post Investigative Fund. [ARTICLE 731](#)

## Energy

**U.S. Energy Use Drops in 2008** by Anne Stark. *Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory*. July 2009.

Americans used more solar, nuclear, biomass and wind energy in 2008 than in 2007, according to the study. The nation used less coal and petroleum during the same time frame and only slightly increased its natural gas consumption. Geothermal energy use remained the same. [ARTICLE 732](#)

[Can the Military Find the Answer to Alternative Energy?](#) By Steve LeVine. *Business Week*. August 03, 2009.

**America's Energy Future: Technology and Transformation: Summary Edition.** *National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council*. July 28, 2009.

With a sustained national commitment, the U.S. could obtain energy-efficiency improvements, new sources of energy, and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through the accelerated deployment of existing and emerging energy technologies, according to the report. [ARTICLE 733](#)

**Energy Market and Economic Impacts of H.R. 2454, The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009.** *Energy Information Administration*. August 4, 2009.

The report responds to a request from Chairman Henry Waxman and Chairman Edward Markey for an analysis of H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACESA). ACESA, as passed by the House of Representatives on June 26, 2009, is a complex bill that regulates emissions of greenhouse gases through market-based mechanisms, efficiency programs, and economic incentives. [ARTICLE 734](#)

**OPEC Revenues Fact Sheet.** *Energy Information Administration*. August 2009.



The members of OPEC could earn \$555 billion of oil export revenues in 2009 and \$667 billion in 2010. In 2008 OPEC earned \$968 billion in net oil export revenues, a 42% increase from 2007. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share, \$285 billion, representing 29% of total OPEC revenues. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net export earning reached \$2,680 in 2008, a 40% increase from 2007.

[ARTICLE 735](#)

**Fighting Oil Addiction: Ranking states' Oil Vulnerability and Solutions for Change** by Deron Lovaas. *Natural Resources Defense Council*. August 2009.

America's addiction to oil continues to threaten our national security, global environmental health, and our economic viability. The report analyzes how heavily drivers in each state are affected by increases in oil prices and ranked states on their adoption of solutions to reduce their oil dependence, measures they are taking to lessen their vulnerability and to bolster America's security.

[ARTICLE 736](#)

**Thirst for African Oil: Asian National Oil Companies in Nigeria and Angola** by Alex Vines et al. *Chatham House Report*. August 10, 2009.

The report on the activities of Asian oil companies in Africa exposes the flaws in many general assumptions about Asian engagement with Africa. The report analyzes the impact of these companies in the two leading oil producing countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and contrasts the stability and policy consistency that are features of the Angolan system with a more insecure and unstable system in Nigeria.

[ARTICLE 737](#)

**Managing the Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Policy Implications of Expanding Global Access to Nuclear Power** by Mary Beth Nikitin et al. Congressional Research Service. July 01, 2009.

After several decades of stagnation, nuclear power is attracting renewed interest. New license applications for 30 reactors have been announced in the U.S., and another 150 are planned or proposed globally, with about a dozen more currently under construction. In the U.S., interest appears driven by tax credits, loan guarantees, and other incentives in the 2005 Energy Policy Act, as well as by potential greenhouse gas controls that may increase the cost of fossil fuels.

[ARTICLE 738](#)

## Social Issues

**U.S. Immigration Policy Likely to Boost Population** by Joseph Chamie. *Yale Global*. July 2009.

As the new U.S. Administration and Congress begin to tackle immigration reform they will again be faced with the question of how large America's population should be in the future. Clearly, any answer to this demographic question has serious economic, political, social and environmental consequences for the U.S. as well as for the international community of nations, says the author.

[ARTICLE 739](#)

**From Unpaid to Paid Care Work: the Macroeconomic Implications of HIV and AIDS on Women's Time-Tax Burdens** by Rania Antonopoulos and Taun Toay. *The Levy Economics Institute of Bard College*. July 2009.

The paper considers public employment guarantee programs in the context of South Africa as a means to address the nexus of poverty, unemployment, and unpaid work burdens, all factors exacerbated by HIV/AIDS. It further discusses the need for gender informed public job creation in areas that mitigate the "time-tax" burdens of women, and examines a South African initiative to address social sector service delivery deficits within the government's Expanded Public Works Programme.

[ARTICLE 740](#)

**In Tough Times, Volunteering in America Remains Strong.** *Corporation for National and Public Service*. July 27, 2009.

The report finds that even during a time of prolonged economic recession, volunteering has remained steady, fueled by a compassion boom led by young adults and a wave of do-it-yourself volunteers working with their neighbors to fix problems.

[DATA](#)

[RANKINGS](#)

**Same-Gender Marriage & Religious Freedom** by C. Welton Gaddy. *Interfaith Alliance*. Aug. 2009.

The author calls for a new national discussion on marriage based on the premise that "law, not scripture, is the foundation of government regulations related to marriage in our nation." The paper expresses support for same-

gender marriage, seeking to shift the perspective on LGBT equality from problem to solution. To do so, the author advocates moving from scriptural argument to religious freedom agreement. [ARTICLE 741](#)

**ICE announces major reforms to immigration detention system.** *U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.* August 06, 2009.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Assistant Secretary John Morton announced today that ICE is undertaking a major overhaul of the agency's immigration detention system.

**Improving Savings Incentives for the Poor** by D. Sean Shurtlefee. *National Center for Policy Analysis.* August 12, 2009.

Americans have been saving less of their after-tax income for the past 15 years. The annual personal savings rate averaged 8% from 1929 to 2000, but reached a historical low of 0.4% in 2005. With the onset of the 2008-2009 recession the savings rate rose again to more than 6%. [ARTICLE 742](#)

**Racial and Ethnic Disparities Among Low-Income Families** by Margaret C. Simms et al. *Urban Institute.* August 11, 2009.

Of the more than 13.4 million families with children living on incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level, 30% are Hispanic, 22% are African American, and 6% are other nonwhites. This fact sheet provides statistics on racial and ethnic differences in family structure, work effort, nativity or immigration status, earnings, and education. [ARTICLE 743](#)

**CBO's Long-Term Projections for Social Security: 2009 Update.** *Congressional Budget Office.* August 2009.

According to the update, without changes in law, CBO expects that the Social Security trust funds will be exhausted in 2043. If that point is reached, the Social Security Administration will not have the legal authority to pay full benefits and the amounts that could be paid would be about 17 percent less than those scheduled under current law. [ARTICLE 744](#)

**Mexican Immigrants: how Many Come? How Many Leave?** By Jeffery S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn. *Pew Hispanic Center.* July 22, 2009.

The flow of immigrants from Mexico to the U.S. has declined sharply since 2005, but there is no evidence of an increase during this period in the number of Mexican-born migrants returning home from the U.S., according to the report. The current recession has had a harsh impact on employment of Latino immigrants, raising the question of whether more Mexican-born residents are choosing to return home. [ARTICLE 745](#)

## Security & Defense

**Recommend Security Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations.** *National Institute of Standards and Technology.* August 2009.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) released its final version of a publication which represents a major step toward building a unified information security framework for the entire federal government. [ARTICLE 746](#)

**Public Health Preparedness and Response to Chemical and Radiological Incidents: Functions, Practices, and Areas for Future Work** by Tom LaTourrette et al. *RAND Corporation.* August 5, 2009.

The paper discusses the role of public health agencies in emergency preparedness for and response to chemical and radiological incidents. [ARTICLE 747](#)

**Understanding Why Terrorist Operations Succeed or Fail** by Brian A. Jackson and David A. Frelinger. *RAND Corporation.* August 10, 2009.

The paper argues that the success or failure of terrorist operations can be best understood by thinking about the match or mismatch between key sets of characteristics of the group, its plans, and the security measures facing them. [ARTICLE 748](#)



**Taking up the Security of Climate Change** by Rynn J. Parsons. *Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Department of Defense*. August 2009.

Climate change, in which man-made global warming is a major factor, will likely have dramatic and long lasting consequences with profound security implications, making it a challenge the United States must urgently take up. The security implications will be most pronounced in places where the effects of climate change are greatest, particularly affecting weak states already especially vulnerable to environmental destabilization. [ARTICLE 749](#)

**Nation at Risk: Policy Makers Need Better Information to Protect the Country.** *The Markle Foundation Task Force on National Security in the Information Age*. March 2009.

## Environment & Climate Change

**20<sup>th</sup> Century Decline of Large-Diameter Trees in Yosemite National Park** by J.A. Lutz et al. *Geological Survey*. July 29, 2009.

Large trees have declined in Yosemite National Park during the 20th century, and warmer climate conditions may play a role. Fewer new trees will grow in the landscape because large trees are a seed source for the surrounding landscape. Large-diameter trees generally resist fire more than small-diameter trees, so fewer large trees could also slow forest regeneration after fires. [ARTICLE 750](#)

**Greenhouse Gas Legislation: Summary and Analysis of H.R. 2454 as Passed by the House of Representatives** by Mark Holt and Gene Whitney. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress*. July 27, 2009.

The bill provides for smart grid technologies, including products that can be equipped with smart grid capability, requirements for electric power retailers to reduce their peak loads using smart grid and other energy efficient technologies, and requirements that power suppliers ensure that utility smart grid systems will be compatible with plug-in electric drive vehicles. [ARTICLE 751](#)

**The Use of Offsets to Reduce Greenhouse Gases.** *Congressional Budget Office*. August 3, 2009.

The cost savings to the economy generated by offsets could be substantial, according to the report. Congressional Budget Office estimates that between 2012 and 2050 average annual savings from offsets could be about 70% under ACESA. The intended environmental benefit would be fully realized only if the offsets provided the full reduction in GHGs for which they were credited. [ARTICLE 752](#)

**A Clear Clue Future: How Greening California Cities can Address Water Resources and Climate Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** by Noah Garrison et al. *Natural Resources Defense Council*. August 10, 2009.

The report highlights low impact development, or LID, as a land planning and engineering design approach for storm water management. LID enables cities, states, and individuals to increase access to safe and reliable sources of water while reducing the amount of energy consumed and global warming pollution generated when delivering water to residents. [ARTICLE 753](#)

**An Analysis of Climate Engineering as a Response to Climate Change** by J. Eric Bickel and Lee Lane. *Copenhagen Consensus on Climate*. August 2009.

Climate engineering could offer an extremely cheap, fast solution to climate change, according to the authors. They show that we might be able to cancel out this century's global warming by spending no more than \$9 billion, and that climate engineering might be able to achieve as much for the planet as carbon cuts at a fraction of the cost. [ARTICLE 754](#)

**Water Scarcity Looms** by Gary Gardner. *Worldwatch Institute*. August 6, 2009.

Water scarcity is increasing in many regions as factors including population growth, climate change, and pollution restrict the amount of water available relative to demand. In 2008, 1.4 billion people lived in "closed basins"-regions where existing water cannot meet the agricultural, municipal, and environmental needs for all. This number is expected to grow to 1.8 billion by 2025. [ARTICLE 755](#)

**Climate Change & National Wildlife: A Survival Guide for a Warming World.** *National Parks Conservation Association.* August 2009.

Wildlife and public lands need help surviving the conditions caused by climate change. The report recommends strategies to help wildlife adapt, including providing land corridors and reducing stress from pollution and invasive species.

[ARTICLE 756](#)

**50 Year Record of Glacier Reveals Shifting Climate in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.** *U.S. Geological Survey.* August 2009.

The report shows that glaciers are dramatically changing in mass, length and thickness as a result of climate change.

[ARTICLE 757](#)

**The Peak Oil Debate** by Laurel Graefe. *Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.* August 2009.

For the past half-century, a debate has raged over when “peak oil” will occur. Determining how long the oil supply will last has become even more pressing as the world’s energy supply still relies heavily on oil, and global energy demand is expected to rise steeply over the next 20 years.

[ARTICLE 758](#)

**Is There a Place for Nuclear Waste?** By Matthew L. Wald. *Scientific American.* August 2009.

Two weeks after President Barack Obama pulled the plug on Yucca Mountain, the site near Las Vegas where the federal government has been trying for 22 years to open a repository for nuclear waste, geochemist James L. Conca came to Washington, D.C., with an idea in his pocket.

[ARTICLE 759](#)

## Asia/Pacific Region

**Barack Obama, Kevin Rudd and the Alliance: American Australian Perspectives** by Michael O’Hanlon and Michael Fullilove. *Lowy Institute for International Policy.* August 2009.

A good deal has been written about the Australia-U.S. alliance over the past decade, but almost all of it described the alliance as it developed under the stewardship of conservative leaders in Washington and Canberra. Now the alliance is in the hands of a Democratic president and a Labor prime minister. The paper sets out the views of two analysts on the developing relationship between President Obama and Prime Minister Rudd and the kind of alliance over which they will preside.

[ARTICLE 760](#)

### [2009 Asia Pacific Clean Energy Summit and Expo](#)

The 2009 Asia Pacific Clean Energy Summit and Expo will center around various renewable energy initiatives and policies throughout the Asia-Pacific region. It will also include a trade show for innovative technologies, services and ideas. The Department of Defense will also have a DOD day featuring plans and procurement opportunities for energy projects throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

[Asia’s Astonishing Rebound.](#) *The Economist.* August 15, 2009.

Asia's emerging economies are leading the way out of recession; now they must make their recovery last.

**Indian Government Opens Climate debate to Youth** by Anna da Costa. *World Watch Institute.* August 5, 2009.

India set a new international standard last month for engaging youth on environmental policy by inviting the Indian Youth Climate Network to comment on climate change regulations.

[ARTICLE 761](#)

**Southeast Asian Nations Risk Dissension by Ignoring Human Rights** by Meidyatama Suryodiningrat. *Yale Global.* August 4, 2009.

For ASEAN, the ruling regime in Burma is an embarrassment to both soft authoritarian regimes like Singapore and democracies such as Indonesia. The embarrassment was highlighted during the recent summit of the group

at which the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton lambasted Burma for its terrible human rights record before an uncomfortable group of senior officials. [\*\*ARTICLE 762\*\*](#)

[\*\*The Af-Pak Channel; Inside the War for Southern Asia\*\*](#) . *Foreign Policy Magazine*.

A special project of Foreign Policy and the New America Foundation.

**Southeast Asian Nations Risk Dissension by Ignoring Human Rights** by Meidyatama Suryodiningrat. *Yale Global Online*. August 04, 2009.

ASEAN's status as a successful association that fosters regional economic development and trade remains largely unquestioned. But the association has a poor record as a forum of modern democratic states upholding broader objectives such as human rights. [\*\*ARTICLE 763\*\*](#)

[\*\*East Asia's Foreign Exchange Rate Policies\*\*](#) by Michael F. Martin. *Congressional Research Service*. July 16, 2009.

This report examines the de facto foreign exchange rate policies adopted by the monetary authorities of East Asia. In some cases, there is a perceived discrepancy between the official exchange rate policy and the observed de facto exchange rate policy.

**Cambodia has to Cope with its Global Connection** by Anne-Laure Poree. *YaleGlobal*. August 11, 2009.

Cambodia Angkor Air was launched to boost tourism between the capital and Siem Reap near the famed ruins of Angkor Wat. With tourist arrivals falling sharply since late last year, this may signal a triumph of hope over reality, says the report. [\*\*ARTICLE 764\*\*](#)

**India's Future in the Balance** by Michelle Kaffenberger and Derek Scissors. *Heritage Foundation*. August 13, 2009.

A possibly critical event within India has gone largely unnoticed elsewhere: The Indian federal legislature has approved a bill mandating free public education for all citizens. Whether the bill is properly or improperly implemented could play a notable role in determining whether India becomes a global economic leader, and a global economic partner for the U.S. [\*\*ARTICLE 765\*\*](#)

[\*\*U.S. Accession to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' Treaty of Amity and Cooperation\*\*](#). *Congressional Research Service*. updated July 13, 2009.

**North Korea's Nuclear Weapons: Technical Issues**. *Congressional Research Service*. July 1, 2009.

This report summarizes what is known from open sources about the North Korean nuclear weapons program—including weapons-usable fissile material and warhead estimates—and assesses current developments in achieving denuclearization. [\*\*ARTICLE 766\*\*](#)

[\*\*No North Korean Thaw from Clinton Trip\*\*](#) by Bruce Klingner. *Heritage Foundation*. August 18, 2009 (refers to the visit of former U.S. President Bill Clinton to North Korea in early August 2009).

## **U.S. Government & International Relations**

[\*\*Ramadan Message\*\*](#); Remarks of President Obama. *The Briefing Room*, The White House. August 21, 2009  
[\*\*Ramadan Kareem\*\*](#) (Video of President Obama's Ramadan message)

[\*\*A Multicultural Ramadan\*\*](#). American Muslims trace their ancestry to more than 80 countries. America.gov explores the richness of these traditions through the lens of Ramadan. Interactive feature and photo gallery. Also includes a link to 'Being Muslim in America', an eJournal.

**China-U.S. Relations: Current Issues and Implications for U.S. Policy** by Kerry Dunbaugh. *Congressional Research Service*. updated July 10, 2009.

This report addresses relevant policy questions in current U.S.-China relations, discusses trends and key legislation in the current Congress, and provides a chronology of developments and high-level exchanges.

[ARTICLE 767](#)

**Federal Elections 2008: Election Results for the U.S. President, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives.** *Federal Elections Commission.*

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) today released Federal Elections 2008, a biennial publication that compiles federal election results in the 50 states, five territories and the District of Columbia for the offices of President, Senate, and House of Representatives, as well as Delegates.

**Closing the Guantanamo Detention Center: Legal Issues** . *Cong. Research Service.* July 2009

**New/Recently Updated CRS Reports – International Relations.** *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.*

**The New U.S.-Japan Alliance** by Dan Blumenthal and Gary Schmitt. *Asian Wall Street Journal* online. August 17, 2009

When Japan goes to the polls on August 30, the Democratic Party of Japan is likely to oust the Liberal Democratic Party that has governed the country almost uninterrupted for more than half a century. [ARTICLE 768](#)

**NTSB Issues Update on its Investigation into the Midair Collision Over the Hudson River.** *National Transport Safety Board.* August 14, 2009.

**A New Foreign Policy for Jacob Zuma's South Africa** by Xolela Mangcu. *Brookings Institution.* July 20, 2009.

The author discusses South Africa's government under President Jacob Zuma.

## Research, Science & Technology

**Federal Research and Development Funding: FY2010.** *Congressional Research Service.* July 15, 2009.

Congress will play a central role in defining the nation's R&D priorities, especially with respect to two overarching issues: the extent to which the Federal R&D investment can grow in the context of increased pressure on discretionary spending and how available funding will be prioritized and allocated. [ARTICLE 769](#)

**Federally Funded R&D Centers;** Master Government List. *National Science Foundation.*

**Federally Funded Innovation Inducement Prizes** by Deborah S. Stein. *Congressional Research Service.* June 29, 2009.

The scientific and technological goals for federally-funded innovation inducement prizes include the full spectrum of research, development, testing, demonstration, and deployment. They are an alternative to more traditional ways of achieving societal objectives with S&T such as grants, contracts, fees, patents, and human or physical infrastructure investments that some think are too costly, risk-averse, and bureaucratic. [ARTICLE 770](#)

**The Manhattan Project, the Apollo Program, and Federal Energy Technology R&D Programs: A Comparative Analysis** by Deborah D. Stine. *Congressional Research Service.* June 30, 2009.

Some policymakers have concluded that the energy challenges facing the U.S. are so critical that a concentrated investment in energy R&D should be undertaken. The Manhattan project and the Apollo program have been cited as examples of the success such R&D investments can yield. Investment in federal energy technology R&D programs of the 1970s, in response to two energy crises, have generally been viewed as less successful than the earlier two efforts. This report compares and contrasts the three initiatives. [ARTICLE 771](#)

**Robots at War: The New Battlefield** by P. W. Singer. *The Wilson Quarterly.*

On the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, robots are killing America's enemies and saving American lives. But today's PackBots, Predators, and Ravens are relatively primitive machines. The coming generation of "war-bots" will be immensely more sophisticated, and their development raises troubling new questions about how and when we wage war.

[\*\*ARTICLE 772\*\*](#)

[\*\*After the Dot.com Bubble: Silicon Valley High-Tech Employment and Wages in 2001 and 2008.\*\*](#) Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept of Labor. August 2009.

[\*\*Science and Technology Priorities for the FY 2011 Budget.\*\*](#) August 4, 2009.

Memorandum for the heads of executive departments and agencies; Office of Management and Budget and Office of Science and Technology Policy.

[\*\*The National Nanotechnology Initiative: Overview, Reauthorization, and Appropriations Issues\*\*](#) by John F. Sargent Jr. Congressional Research Service. May 6, 2009.

## Arts & Culture

**Report: Engaging Audiences.** The Wallace Foundation. August 2009

In the midst of hard economic times it is more challenging for arts organizations to take the long view and continue to devote time and effort to building new audiences. But this report concludes that participation-building efforts and the resulting lessons are more vital than ever to the long-term health of arts organizations and the entire arts sector.

[\*\*ARTICLE 773\*\*](#)

**Museums, Libraries, and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.** Institute of Museum and Library Services. July 2009

This report outlines a vision for the role of libraries and museums in the national dialogue around learning and 21st century skills and includes case studies of innovative audience engagement and 21st century skills practices from across the country.

[\*\*ARTICLE 774\*\*](#)

[\*\*Great Road Trips in American Literature\*\*](#) by Abby Callard. Smithsonian.com. August 20, 2009.

**The cycle of giving in challenging times** by Veronica Meury. *Philanthropy Journal*. August 21, 2009.

As individuals and businesses face challenging and troubling economic times, charitable foundations shouldn't underestimate the power of personal touches in every phase of their giving programs.

[\*\*ARTICLE 775\*\*](#)

[\*\*Arts and Culture Dialogue.\*\*](#)

The Brookings Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World's Arts and Culture Dialogue, the first at a major think tank to bridge the worlds of culture and foreign policy

[\*\*First Family Fabrics: Batiks from Obama's Mother\*\*](#) by Susan Stamberg. National Public Radio. August 17, 2009.

Beautiful, handcrafted fabrics collected by President Obama's mother are on display at the Textile Museum in Washington, D.C. (includes audio and photo slide show).

[\*\*Leap of Faith; inside the movement to build an audience of citizens\*\*](#) by Megan Garber. *Columbia Journalism Review*. July /August 2009.

**National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for Humanities Chairs Confirmed.** American for the Arts. August 07, 2009.

The U.S. Senate confirmed Broadway producer Rocco Landesman to serve as the next National Endowment for the Arts chair and former Congressman Jim Leach to serve as National Endowment for the Humanities chair.

[\*\*ARTICLE 776\*\*](#)